

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Examiner Karmis and Primary Examiner Patel are thanked for a most courteous interview with the undersigned and the inventor on November 15, 2004. A copy of the Power Point slides presented by Dr. Henley during that interview are attached for the record. In general, Dr. Henley's presentation established an urgent need for a new way to deliver medical services wherein both the patient and the doctor are the primary participants and determinants of the care, price, location, etc. associated with such medical services. Some attributes of Dr. Henley's invention as disclosed in the specification of the present application were also included in this presentation. Access to a preliminary skeletal prototype of the inventor's current website may be had at <http://emedicalbid.com/>.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the undersigned indicated the probability that Invention I would be selected in response to the outstanding restriction requirement and offered some comments with respect to some of those elected claims to illustrate features that were thought to be novel and patentable within the combination of features that have been claimed.

The following discussion includes a brief summary of comments made in this regard during the interview.

The Examiner is thanked for finding that the applicant has claimed six different patentably distinct inventions (i.e., no one of which is made "obvious" in view of the others whether taken singly or in combination under 35 U.S.C. §103). In response to that restriction

requirement applicant hereby elects for further substantive examination in the present application Invention I comprising claims 1-17, 21, 30-35 and 50-60. Other, non-elected, claims have now been cancelled above without prejudice or disclaimer vis-à-vis a subsequent timely filed continuing/divisional application.

As suggested by Primary Examiner Patel during the interview, the independent claims of the remaining elected claims have been amended above so as to give greater emphasis to some of the novel and patentable features of these claims. For example, one novel and patentable feature of claim 1 is believed to be verification of the service provider's qualifications for providing the services that are posted. Accordingly, this feature has been expanded somewhat in specific recitations of claim 1.

Similarly, claim 21 is believed to include a novel and patentable feature by obtaining and forwarding with the bid for services information obtained online describing the health and/or financial condition of the prospective patient. Accordingly, these features have been further emphasized in independent claim 21.

Similar types of emphasizing amendments have been made with respect to appropriate features of the remaining independent claims as will be self-evident from the above amendment.

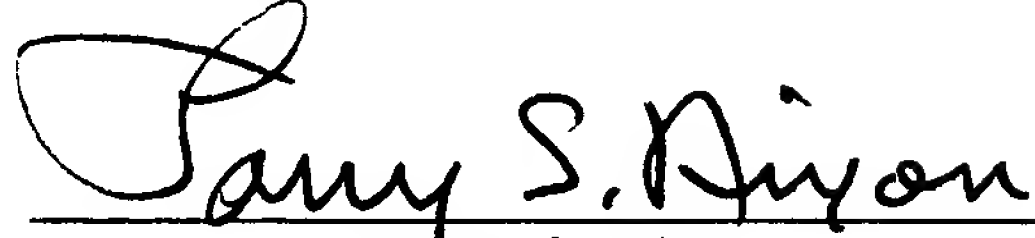
Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

HENLEY  
Appl. No. 09/725,142  
November 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry S. Nixon", written over a horizontal line.

Larry S. Nixon  
Reg. No. 25,640

LSN:vc  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100